

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 /093 W

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R 230920Z DEC 75X

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2977

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CH

SUBJECT: SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

REF: HONG KONG 15029

1. WE APPRECIATE AND SHARE THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE THOUGHTFUL ASSESSMENT OF SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS CONTAINED REFTEL, PARTICULARLY OVERALL EVALUATION OF ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL SUSPICION WITH WHICH EACH SIDE APPROACHES THE OTHER AND THE LIKELY INTERESTS OF THE CHINESE IN RAPPROCHEMENT (PARAS 5 AND 7 REFTEL). OUR PUZZLEMENT HERE AT PRC POLICY HAS REVOLVED LARGELY AROUND POINT THAT IF THE CHINESE "WORRY CONSTANTLY" ABOUT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN INDIA AND VIEW INDIA AS "AN INTEGRAL PART OF SOVIET ENCIRCLEMENT" OF CHINA, IT WOULD HAVE SEEMED LOGICAL FOR THEM TO HAVE MADE GREATER EFFORT TO DEFLECT SOVIET INFFLUENCE THAN THEY HAVE. INDIANS WEREPREPARED,WE ARE TOLD, TO HAVE MRS. GANDHI RECEIVE THE PRC PING-PONG TEAM EARLIER THIS YEAR, BUT WANTED THE CHINESE TO ASK FOR A MEETING. THE CHINESE FOR THEIR PART
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APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR AN INVITATION FROM THE PM AND

DECLINED TO ASK FOR ONE THEMSELVES. THE TWO MOST PRIDEFUL NATIONS IN ASIA (OR THE WORLD?) HAVE DIFFICULTY IN WORKING SUCH DETENTE MATTERS OUT. WE AGREE THE INDIANS MAY HAVE MISREAD THE SITUATION, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND IT HAS SEEMED TO US THAT THE STAKES IN IMPROVING RELATIONS ARE PROBABLY HIGHER FOR THE CHINESE IN BROAD POLICY TERMS THAN FOR THE INDIANS. INDEED, THE INDIANS WORRY ABOUT THE SOVIET REACTION TO ANY OVERTURES THEY MAKE TO THE CHINESE AND MOVE GINGERLY AS A RESULT. THE CHINESE ONLY HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEIR OWN AMOUR PROPRE (AND CONVEIVABLY THE PAKISTANIS) WHEN THEY TAKE INITIATIVES.

2. WE FIND THE COMMENT IN REFTEL PARA 3 THAT THE CHINESE MAY HAVE MISREAD MRS. GANDHI'S STAYING POWERS AFTER THE DECLARATION OF THE EMERGENCY PLAUSIBLE AND ASSUME THAT THIS, AS WELL AS THE CHANGING EVENTS IN BANGLADESH AFTER AUGUST 15 MAY HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR THE CHINESE SILENCE IN THE FACE OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S APPROACH TO THE CHINESE CHARGE WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN IN AUGUST.

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